

SUPPLEMENTAL ESTIMATE OF APPROPRIATION, CON-  
STRUCTION OF WATER CONSERVATION AND UTILI-  
ZATION PROJECTS, 1939

---

COMMUNICATION

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

TRANSMITTING

A SUPPLEMENTAL ESTIMATE OF APPROPRIATION FOR THE FISCAL  
YEAR 1939 FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF WATER CONSERVATION  
AND UTILIZATION PROJECTS

---

MARCH 4, 1939.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be  
printed

---

THE WHITE HOUSE,  
*Washington, March 4, 1939.*

THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith for the consideration of Congress a supplemental estimate of appropriation for the fiscal year 1939 for the construction of water conservation and utilization projects, in the amount of \$5,000,000.

The details of this estimate, the necessity therefor, and the reasons for its transmission at this time, are set forth in the letter of the Acting Director of the Bureau of the Budget, which is transmitted herewith, with whose comments and observations thereon I concur.

Respectfully,

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

BUREAU OF THE BUDGET,  
*Washington, February 27, 1939.*

The PRESIDENT,  
*The White House.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit for your consideration a supplemental estimate of appropriation for the fiscal year 1939 for the construction of water conservation and utilization projects in the amount of \$5,000,000, as follows:

Water conservation and utilization projects: For construction, in addition to labor and materials to be supplied by the Works Progress Administration, of water conservation and utilization projects, including acquisition of water rights, rights-of-way and other interests in land, in the Great Plains and arid and semiarid areas of the United States, fiscal year 1939, to continue available until June 30, 1940, \$5,000,000 to be allocated by the President, in such amounts as he deems necessary, to such Federal Departments, establishments, and other agencies as he may designate, and to be reimbursed to the United States by the water users on such projects in not to exceed forty annual installments: *Provided*, That expenditures from Works Progress Administration funds shall be subject to such provisions with respect to reimbursability as the President may determine.

A similar estimate was transmitted to the Congress on June 14, 1938. The purpose of the estimate was to provide funds for the construction of irrigation projects in the Dakotas, Montana, and other portions of the Great Plains area, which would be impracticable for construction under the existing laws requiring full reimbursability for construction costs but which might be considered feasible if reimbursement were not required of a part or all of the cost of labor and materials that might be supplied by the Works Progress Administration. That estimate contemplated a direct appropriation from the Federal Treasury to be allocated by the President without restriction as to the amount for any one project. As approved by the Congress, the money was to come from the appropriation of \$1,425,000,000 made available to the Works Progress Administration by section 1 (1) of the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1938, and a limit of \$50,000 was established for expenditures for any one project. Because of this action by Congress, the appropriation is inoperative for the purpose intended.

The need for this type of development still exists. The program contemplates the construction of numerous projects for the purpose of providing opportunities for settlement by farmers who are now unable to make a living by dry-land farming.

The appropriation of \$5,000,000 herein recommended would be reimbursable to the United States, but expenditures from Works Progress Administration funds would be subject to such provisions with respect to reimbursability as the President might determine.

The foregoing estimate is required to meet contingencies which have arisen since the transmission of the Budget for the fiscal year 1939, and approval is recommended.

Very respectfully,

D. W. BELL,  
*Acting Director of the Bureau of the Budget.*